

VIETNAMESE HERITAGE AND FREEDOM FLAG MONTH

WHEREAS: Vietnamese Americans were forced to flee their homeland in fear of the Communist government's campaign of retribution and persecution after the fall of Saigon in 1975; and

WHEREAS: A significant number of the Vietnamese refugees who entered the United States settled in Georgia. In the ensuing years, they have proven themselves to be honest, intelligent, loyal citizens of this state and of the United States, contributing greatly in the areas of business, commerce and culture; and

WHEREAS: Virtually all of our Vietnamese American citizens embrace the "Vietnamese Heritage and Freedom Flag," which appears as three red stripes on a saffron background, as the symbol of their community and their cultural identity, representing freedom, democracy and the resilience of the Vietnamese people; and

WHEREAS: The Vietnamese American community continues to flourish and to demonstrate the spirit and love of freedom which America embraces, and it is proper that the tangible symbol of that spirit, the "Vietnamese Heritage and Freedom Flag," be displayed in pride to recognize and honor the Vietnamese American community in Georgia; and

THEREFORE: I, SONNY PERDUE, Governor of the state of Georgia, do hereby proclaim April 2009 as VIETNAMESE HERITAGE AND FREEDOM FLAG MONTH in Georgia and commend the Vietnamese community for their many triumphs and successes.

In witness thereof, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Seal of the Executive Department to be affixed this 2nd day of April in the year of our Lord two thousand nine.